

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 4 are currently amended, and claim 2 is canceled. The drawings and specification are also amended.

The drawings, the specification, and the claims are objected to because Fig. 6, page 12 (of the specification), and claim 3 each includes an equation that uses the symbol “X” to indicate multiplication. It is suggested in the Office Action that the symbol be removed or replaced with a dot (“•”). Accordingly, applicants amend the application as suggested. Withdrawal of the objections is now solicited.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as anticipated by Yagasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,830). However, the Office Action indicates that dependent claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Instead of rewriting claim 2 in independent form, applicants add the described subject matter to claim 1. (Claim 2 is canceled.) Because claim 1 now has the subject matter that claim 2 had, claim 1 should also be deemed allowable. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is now solicited.

The Office Action indicates that claim 4 stands objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As shown above, claim 4 is now rewritten in independent form. Therefore, without withdrawal of the objection is now requested.

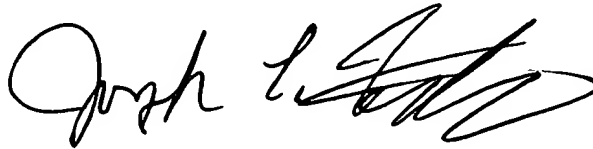
As a final matter, the claims are amended due to informalities of prior recitations. Specifically, some of the labels, for example, “a”, were not shown with the appropriate underlining.

In view of the remarks above, applicants now submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is

believed that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension, or any other fees which may be due, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Felber", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Enclosure: Replacement Drawing Sheet